

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 8, 2005, the Examiner objects to claims 2 and 3 as containing certain informalities. Further, pending claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17-19, 22-23, and 34-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 10/249,332 of Milazzo ("Milazzo").

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 2 and 3 as containing certain informalities. In particular, the Examiner objects to claim 2 alleging that a space is missing between the letter "a" and the word "circular." A space, however, is not missing between the letter "a" and the word "circular." Applicants intended this word to be "acircular." Further, the Examiner objects to claim 2 stating it appears that claim 2 should be dependent from claim 1, not claim 35. Claim 2, however, is intended to be dependent from claim 35, not claim 1. Claim 35 was added (as was claim 34) in a preliminary amendment dated September 13, 2004. Having claim 2 depend from claim 35 corrects the antecedent basis problems identified by the Examiner of "said recess" and "said base." Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the objection of claims 2 and 3 and respectfully request indication that such claims are allowable.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Pending claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17-19, 22-23, and 34-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Milazzo. It is Applicants' contention, however, that Milazzo does not disclose each and every element of Applicants' claim 1. In particular, Milazzo does not disclose the member being engageable with the cavity to prevent rotation of the hitch ball during

installation. The Office Action fails to identify in FIG. 3 of Milazzo where the at least one cavity of the hitch ball receiver. There are two potential cavities on the drawbar 15 of Milazzo, apertures 17 and 23, neither of which are engageable with the member of the hitch ball to prevent rotation of the hitch ball during installation. Aperture 17 is clearly a hitch ball mounting aperture. As stated in paragraph [0019] of Milazzo, the hole or passageway 17 is used for receiving the mounting shaft 14. Accordingly, no member connected with the hitch ball is engageable with the aperture 17 to prevent rotation of the hitch ball during installation.

Aperture 23, on the other hand, is used to engage a headed shaft 32. As is clear from FIG. 3, the headed shaft 32 is not connected with the hitch ball. Accordingly, no member connected with the hitch ball is engageable with aperture 23 to prevent rotation of the hitch ball during installation.

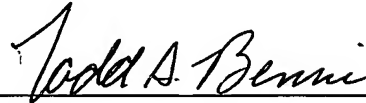
Finally, the member 13 connected with the hitch ball in Milazzo is not engageable with either apertures 17 or 23 to prevent rotation of the hitch ball during installation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdraw of this rejection and the indication that claim 1 is allowable over Milazzo.

As claims 2-4, 8, 9, 17-19, 22, 34 and 35 depend, directly or indirectly from claim 1, and add additional limitations thereto, the argument above applies equally thereto. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdraw of the rejections of these claims and an indication that these claims are allowable over Milazzo.

Finally, Applicants amend claim 35 having it depend from claim 34 instead of claim 2, as claim 2 already depends from claim 35. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request indication that claim 35 is allowable.

Should the Examiner have any questions pertaining the to above, undersigned Counsel would welcome a phone call to provide any further clarification.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Todd A. Benni", is written over a horizontal line.

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